

# Family Forest Fish Passage Program

## Barrier Evaluation Process - Cover Sheet

### Purpose of Forms

The purpose of the Barrier Evaluation (BEF) and Expanded Barrier Evaluation (EBEF) forms are to document information on fish passage barriers submitted to the Family Forest Fish Passage Program. Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) will coordinate the data collection process for completing the forms. Data recorded on this form may be collected by a broad range of field staff, including: Conservation Districts, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), WDFW, Indian Tribes, Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEG's), and others. The Fish Passage Team, a core group of staff from DNR, WDFW and Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation/ Salmon Recovery Funding Board (IAC), will summarize the data recorded on the EBEF's and use it to provide a prioritized list of projects to the DNR.

After the landowner has signed up under the program the **first step** is to determine if the structure is a fish passage barrier and if the stream is fish bearing. This initial determination is captured on the Barrier Evaluation Form (BEF) and sent in along with photos and a map. For the **second step**, the Fish Passage Team will screen the BEF. WDFW will coordinate development of the EBEF information including fish species and use, site information, and upstream and downstream channel conditions, approximate cost, correction options and potential habitat gain if the barrier was corrected. For the **final step**, DNR selects projects for funding based on the recommendation from the Fish Passage Team and a project agreement is developed between the landowner or eligible sponsor and the IAC/SRFB. If the project is not selected for funding it will remain on the list until it becomes a priority in the watershed and funding is available.

### No substitute for local knowledge – How you can help:

Your help in providing information on a project is greatly appreciated. There is no better information source than a landowner or local habitat biologist who lives or works in a particular watershed. To minimize your workload, please only submit information that is readily available to you or that you have been asked to provide. The WDFW will develop maps of the watershed for each barrier listing the species utilizing the stream system, the amount of habitat opened above the barrier and the distance to the next man-made barrier or natural barrier gradient break. **Not all sections of this form need to be completed at one time or by one person. Please review the instructions for each section for further information on how and when to collect and record data.**

### Form Descriptions

*Barrier Evaluation Form (BEF)* - Provides the basic information for identifying the location, landowner, evaluator contact information and the barrier measurements. The three key pieces of information are: 1) Is the stream fish bearing (anadromous or resident) 2) Is the structure a fish passage barrier (determined by the Washington State fish passage criteria) and 3) Is the applicant a family forest landowner using the program definition. The evaluator should have professional training to determine if the structure is a barrier and if the stream is fish bearing.

#### *Expanded Barrier Evaluation Form (EBEF)*

*Part 1* – Provides background information on the local watershed. This includes upstream and downstream barriers, fish use at the site, and the description of the habitat that will be made available by the barrier correction. *Part 2* – Site visit documentation and correction alternatives. This section should be filled out by a professional field biologist or engineer with experience in fish passage design and implementation. The cost estimates and correction option are rough estimates for the purpose of setting funding priorities. Final design and implementation are subject to permitting requirements.

**Instructions for Developing the Barrier Evaluation Forms** – Following each form are instructions explaining the detail needed. If you have questions or need assistance please contact the Fish Passage Team. Primary contacts are Brett DeMond, WDFW (360) 902-2550, Brian Abbott, IAC (360) 902-2638, or Kirk Hanson (360) 902-1391. Program Guidelines are available by calling any of the primary contacts or on the web at: [http://www.iac.wa.gov/Documents/SRFB/Grants/FFFP\\_Program/fffp\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.iac.wa.gov/Documents/SRFB/Grants/FFFP_Program/fffp_guidelines.pdf)

*Note: The Fish Passage Team will summarize the information collected on a Summary Form that will include Lead Entity comments and other site-specific information. The completed forms will be made available to landowners and potential sponsors.*